

## Update on MoU Implementation

**As at 29 June 2007**

<i>Item</i>	<i>MoU Provision</i>	<i>MoU Sub Elements</i>	<i>Current Situation</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2. Status, Apology and Acknowledgment</b>	2.2 Widely circulated	Awaiting National Register - see <b>Item 13</b>	To be delivered in Parliament and in a letter to veterans with a known address
		2.3 Content of Crown Apology	<b>Drafting commenced</b> in discussion with Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (DPMC)	EVSA & RSA to have input. See JWG recommendations.
		2.4 Cross-party support	Government will use best endeavours	
<b>2</b>	<b>3. Welcome Home Ceremony and Process</b>	3.1 & 3.5 NZDF Ceremony (including Whakanoa)	<b>Confirmed as 1 June 2008 in Wellington City (Queen's Birthday Weekend). Planned jointly by NZDF and Reunion 2008 Committee.</b>	<b>To be held in conjunction with a National Reunion for <u>ALL</u> Viet Nam Veterans &amp; their Families. Reunion 2008 Committee has been formed and planning commenced. Lt Gen (Rtd) Don McIver is Patron for the 2008 Reunion</b>
		3.2 Content of NZDF Statement	As detailed in MoU. Work not yet started	EVSA & RSA to have input.
		3.3 Viet Nam Exhibition	To be actioned	EVSA & RSA to have input
		3.4 Contribution to travel & accommodation expenses	<b>A government contribution will be available to help subsidize direct accommodation costs of New Zealand veterans &amp; immediate family members attending Reunion 2008.</b>	<b>Access to the subsidy will be by reserving accommodation through the Reunion 2008 official Registration Process. Full</b>

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				<b>details will be provided when Registration Packs are made available.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4. Oral History Programme</b>	4.1 Recording by oral historians	<b>Ministry of Culture &amp; Heritage (MCH) has appointed a Project Director, oral historians are being engaged and initial interviews are being arranged</b>	<b>This is being developed as a major project extending beyond just an oral history</b>
		4.2 Funding up to \$200,000 x 4 years	<b>Has commenced</b>	
		4.3 Commence during 2007 at date to be agreed	<b>Has commenced</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>5. Increased Medallion Recognition</b>	5.1 Crown recommendation to the Queen re South Vietnamese Gallantry Awards	<b>Cabinet approval given.</b>	<b>Royal assent being sought</b>
		5.2 NZ-specific Viet Nam Campaign Medal	<b>Cabinet approval given.</b>	<b>Royal assent being sought</b>
		5.3 Extend 1 RNZIR Theatre Honour to include 1971	<b>NZDF has convened a 2007 Battle/Theatre Honours Committee to examine this requirement</b>	<b>EVSA/RSA represented. The Committee has met twice and good progress is being made</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6. Ex Gratia Payments for Viet Nam Veterans</b>	6.1 \$40,000 – for veterans with Prescribed Condition/s	Linked to National Register – see <b>Item 13. Veteran can contact VANZ to initiate registration &amp; application. Fee phone: 0800 483 8372. Cabinet approval gained in April 2007 for</b>	On receipt of Registration Form VANZ is proactively commencing application process with veteran. <b>Eighteen (18) Veterans have</b>

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			<b>funding in current budget year and to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements</b>	<b>received this payment to date</b>
		6.2 Entitlement under 6.1 for conditions subsequently added to the Prescribed List	Expert Panel to be established– see <i>Item 7. Terms of Reference for the Panel are being drafted.</i>	
		6.3 \$25,000 to surviving spouse or partner of veteran deceased from Prescribed List condition/s without receiving 6.1 or 6.2 entitlement	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13. Surviving spouse/partner can contact VANZ to initiate registration &amp; application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372. Cabinet approval gained in April 2007 for funding in current budget year and to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements</i>	On receipt of Registration Form/s VANZ will proactively commence application process with spouse/partner. <b>Four (4) Surviving Spouse/Partners have received this payment to date.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7. War Disablement Pension</b>	7.1 Uniform application of the “reverse onus of proof”	To be actioned.	Linked to VANZ Review and WPA Rewrite
		7.2 Entitlement equal to 160% of WDP for service-related terminal illness	VANZ to take administrative action	Linked to WPA Rewrite
		7.3 Substantive review of WPA	Preliminary scoping commenced for drafting Terms of Reference	Meeting to be held by JIG with Law Commission. JIG preference is for a 'first principles' rewrite while ensuring 'reverse onus of proof' retained. Veterans organisations will be an

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				integral part of the process.
		7.4 Review of criteria for Surviving Spouse Pension	To be included in 7.3	
7	<b>8. Expert Panel</b>	8.1 Establish the Expert Panel	<b>Terms of Reference being drafted</b>	<b>EVSA &amp; RSA are involved in developing the TOR and are considering nominees.</b>
		8.2 EP to create uniform standards to ensure fair & consistent treatment	To be included in EP TOR	
		8.3 Any changes to WDP rates to be backdated	VANZ to establish procedures and brief JIG on system	
8	<b>9. Programme for Children of Viet Nam Veterans</b>	9.1 Ex gratia payment up to \$30,000 for Five Accepted Conditions	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13</i> . <b>Affected individual can contact VANZ to initiate application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372. Cabinet approval gained in April 2007 for funding in current budget year and to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements</b>	<b>Eight (8) children have received this payment to date</b>
		9.2 Review services of other governments & consider introducing programmes for children & grandchildren	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be actioned	
		9.3 Consider improvements to access & dissemination of research on intergenerational	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be implemented. Input from MOH, MSD,	

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		effects	ACC etc.	
<b>9</b>	<b>10. Lump Sum Payments for Families of Deceased Natural Children with One or More of the Five Accepted Conditions</b>	10.1 & 10.2 \$30,000 ex gratia payments	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13</i> . Families can contact VANZ to initiate application. Feephone: 0800 483 8372. Cabinet approval gained in April 2007 for funding in current budget year and to ensure payments are non-taxable and will not affect residential care entitlements	<b>No payments made in this category to date</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11. Ongoing Research</b>	Crown access international research and sponsor ongoing research	VANZ to prepare a paper for JIG consideration on how this can be implemented. Input from MSD, MOH, ACC etc.	
<b>11</b>	<b>12. EVSA (Neville Wallace Memorial) Youth Development Trust</b>	\$250,000 grant	<b>Cabinet approved funding in current budget year and money deposited in the Trust in April 2007. A formal Cheque Presentation Ceremony took place at Parliament on 20 June 2007</b>	<b>The Trust is now renamed <u>“The EVSA (Neville Wallace Memorial) Children's and Grandchildren's Trust”</u> to reflect the fact that those eligible for a grant from the Trust are not necessarily “Youth”.</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13. Veterans' Card</b>	13.1 All veterans eligible to apply	<b>For veterans 65 and over and those under 65 in receipt of a Veterans Pension the specially designed Veterans Card will be available in conjunction with the Super Gold Card commencing 1 August 2007.</b>	<b>The Veterans' Card will be issued later for remaining veterans once card details finalised – see 13.2. The exact nature of the entitlements of the Veterans Card are yet to be determined</b>

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		13.2 Purpose to ensure access to medical services and info available to medical professionals. Exact entitlements to be determined.	These and other functions will be added subsequently once veterans card details are finalised.	
		13.3 Viet Nam Veterans Children's card or agreed alternative to enable ready identification for medical professionals	Early scoping stage.	Linked to National Register – see <i>Item 13</i> .
<b>13</b>	<b>14. National Register</b>	14.1 To include all Viet Nam veterans, spouses/partners and children	<p>Separate forms for each category and whether living or deceased – veterans, spouses/partners and children/grandchildren (including adopted children &amp; step-children).</p> <p><b>Phase1:</b> From 31 March 07, VANZ began mailing out to those they had addresses for – people <b>currently</b> on a WDP, Surviving Spouse Pension, and children who are on VANZ existing list of service recipients. Also all Viet Nam veterans who applied for the Year of the Veteran Badge. On receiving back the completed forms VANZ prioritized those who could be eligible for an ex gratia payment. VANZ then proactively initiated the application process for those people and VANZ completes as much of the documentation sourcing etc. they can</p>	<p><b>Phase 2:</b> Phase 2 is designed to contact as many other members of the Viet Nam veteran community as possible. Once Phase 1 is under way, posters will be sent to all RSA's for their notice boards advising veterans of the registration process. It is intended that local EVSA Pension Reps and RSA Secretaries will have copies of the forms and/or will download them to give to people on request. <b>Forms can also be requested from VANZ on 0800 483 8372.</b> Advertisements will be run in community newspapers telling people how to register.</p>

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			<p>hout having to trouble the individuals concerned unless absolutely necessary. The forms are also be available at <a href="http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz">www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz</a> for printing off.</p> <p><u>Because of privacy requirements people or their authorised signatory will have to personally sign a hard copy of their completed form and therefore it will NOT be possible for the forms to be completed on-line.</u></p> <p><b>To date 2757 registrations have been received, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 794 Veterans</li> <li>● 53 Deceased Veterans</li> <li>● 606 Spouses/partners</li> <li>● 724 Children's</li> <li>● 580 Grandchildren</li> </ul>	<p>EVSA, RSA will also be using their communication channels to get the message out to as many as possible.</p> <p><b><u>THE REGISTER WILL DRIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF MUCH OF THE MoU PROVISIONS NOW &amp; IN THE FUTURE.</u></b></p> <p><b>ALL VETERANS CAN ASSIST THE PROCESS BY TELLING THEIR MATES, WIDOWS OF MATES, CHILDREN ETC. ABOUT REGISTRATION AND BY ENCOURAGING &amp; HELPING THEM TO REGISTER.</b></p>
		14.2 Register to be capable of including epidemiological research, monitoring etc.	VANZ to prepare paper on this for JIG.	
<b>14</b>	<b>15. Provision of Information</b>	15.1 VANZ to provide information to medical professionals to monitor & screen veterans & families for relevant conditions	VANZ, MSD & MOH to prepare paper. Also to be discussed with professional medical associations. Privacy issues examined in consultation with Privacy Commissioner	Investigate link to Veteran's Card and Children's Card
		15.2 Information to include that on PTSD	As for 15.1	
		15.3 Establish 'centres of excellence' with Veterans	<b>International models for health centres of excellence are being researched</b>	Policy development during 2008

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		Retirement Homes' for veteran prevalent health conditions, including PTSD	<b>from which a New Zealand model can be developed in collaboration with Veterans' Homes.</b> Veterans Homes to be asked for proposals by 31 March 2008. VANZ & MOH suggestions/proposals.	
<b>15</b>	<b>16. VANZ Placement and Review</b>	Review VANZ mechanisms for service delivery (incl vets in Australia), functions, responsibilities, structure, resources & placement. Veterans Associations to be consulted & review integrated with rewrite of WPA	<b>A preliminary position paper is under consideration in discussions between NZDF and the Veterans' Associations.</b> JIG coordinating with CDF and CEO MSD to ensure service delivery maintained during the Review and adequate resourcing for additional requirements resulting from MoU implementation responsibilities.	Veterans Associations will be an integral part of the process.
<b>16</b>	<b>17. Medical Assessments</b>	One-off comprehensive medical assessment	Two vital requirements before medical examinations can begin are the provision of diagnostic information to practitioners, and clear instructions to practices on where to send the bill. We are working on these aspects with professional medical associations and also discussing best process/procedures.	Linked to National Register – see <b>Item 13. Processes are under development.</b> Start assessments as soon as practicable.
<b>17</b>	<b>18. Trust Fund for Viet Nam Veterans and their Families</b>	18.1 Endowment of \$7 million for thirty years	<b>Funding approved by Cabinet for current budget year. The Trust Deed is in final stages of drafting and the appointment of trustees is in progress.</b>	Undertaking given that interest has been accruing on the endowment since MoU signed on 6 December 2006.



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			<b>The Trust is expected to commence operating in August 2007 and applications will be called for shortly after.</b>	
		18.2 Trust activities financed by interest earned. Trust Deed to be agreed & have charitable status		<b>Intention is that annual reporting to be to the veteran community with copy to Ministers.</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19. Joint Implementation Group</b>	JIG ( comprising Crown & Veterans Associations) to oversee successful implementation within Terms of Reference to be agreed.	JIG “Core” = Chair, EVSA (two – Chris Mullane plus either John Dow, Rod Baldwin or Terry Culley) and RSA (two – John Campbell & Robin Klitscher). Participation by Government Agencies according to Agenda (as required may include – ACC, Crown Law, DIA, DPMC, MCH, MOH, MSD, NZDF, OMVA, Privacy Commissioner, TPK, TSY, VANZ.	<b>JIG “Full” Meetings occurring on a monthly basis with other working sessions between meetings</b>